

1 1. (thrice amended) A changer apparatus for information discs, comprising:
2 a stacking unit for stacking at least two information discs in respective stacking positions;
3 a read/write unit for reading information stored on the information discs and/or writing
4 information on the information discs in a play position;
5 an eject position at which an information disc can be removed from the apparatus; and
6 transport means for transporting the information discs from the eject position into a
7 loading position along a curve-shaped loading path, the loading position being a position for
8 loading discs from the loading path of the transport means into the stacking positions of the
9 stacking unit;
10 and in which the play position is along the loading path between the eject position and the
11 loading position.

1 3. (twice amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the play position is offset from a
2 direct connecting line between the loading position and the eject position.

1 4. (twice amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the play position is disposed on the
2 loading path.

1 5. (thrice amended) The transport means of Claim 1, including a first transport mechanism
2 for transporting the information discs between the eject position, the play position and the
3 loading position, and a second transport mechanism for transport of the information discs from
4 the loading position into the stacking positions of the stacking unit, the first transport mechanism

5 moves the information discs in the loading plane and the second transport mechanism moves the
6 information discs in a stacking direction oriented vertically with respect to the loading plane.

1 6. (thrice amended) The apparatus of Claim 5, wherein the first transport mechanism
2 includes at least a first and a second guide for the disc edge of the information disc, the first
3 guide includes a groove for supporting the disc moving along the loading path and the first guide
4 is movable in the loading plane, the second guide includes at least one rotationally drivable first
5 transport wheel for driving the disc to move along the loading path.

1 7. (thrice amended) The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein:

2 the first guide is a passive supporting guide;

3 the first transport mechanism further includes: a third guide for the disc edge and having
4 a second transport wheel for driving the disc to move along the loading path; and a passive
5 supporting guide as a fourth guide for the disc edge with a groove for supporting the disc moving
6 along the loading path;

7 the first, the second, the third and the fourth guides include one or more pivotal arms
8 which are supported at one end and which are pivotable in the loading plane;

9 the first, the second, the third and the fourth guides are pre-loaded towards the curve-
10 shaped loading path;

11 the first transport wheel moves the information discs between the eject position and a
12 transfer position and the second transport wheel moves the information discs from the transfer
13 position into the loading position.

1 8. (twice amended) The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein the first and the third guide are
2 mounted on a common pivot.

1 9. (thrice amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein a read/write unit is movably
2 supported on a chassis plate of the apparatus.

1 10. (thrice amended) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the read/write unit includes a base
2 plate and a laser mounting plate, the base plate and the laser mounting plate are coupled by
3 means of dampers, the base plate is slidably mounted on the chassis plate, and the laser mounting
4 plate carries an optical unit for reading information stored on the information disc and a clamping
5 device for clamping the information disc in the play position so that the read unit is isolated from
6 vibrations of the chassis.

1 11. (twice amended) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the read/write unit is movable into
2 the play position in the vertical direction.

1 12. (twice amended) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein in the play position the first, second,
2 third and fourth guides are pivoted away from the disc edge of the information disc, and the
3 pivoting away of the guides is controlled by the base plate of the read write unit or a sliding plate.

1 13. (thrice amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein
2 the stacking unit comprises at least two holder compartments for holding one information
3 disc each;
4 the holder compartments are coupled to at least one threaded spindle and are movable
5 into a vertical direction by rotation of the spindles;
6 there is provided an upper stacking zone and a lower stacking zone in the stacking unit
7 for stacking the holder compartments;
8 the loading position is in a central zone between the upper and the lower stacking zone;
9 one of the holder compartments is each time movable into the loading position by rotation
10 of the spindles, and the transport means move the information disc from the holder
11 compartment, which is in the loading position, into the play position and into the eject position.

1 14. (twice amended) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein in the axial direction of the spindles
2 the central zone has spacing zones at both sides of the loading position, which spacing zones
3 define an axial spacing between the holder compartment in its loading position and the axially
4 adjacent holder compartments in their stacking positions.

1 15. (twice amended) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the average screw thread pitch of
2 the spindles in the loading position is smaller than the average screw thread pitch in the upper
3 and the lower stacking zone.

1 16. (twice amended) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the screw thread pitch of the
2 spindles in the loading position is essentially zero.

1 17. (twice amended) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the average screw thread pitch in
2 the spacing zones is greater than the average screw thread pitch in the upper and the lower
3 stacking zone.

1 18. (twice amended) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein there is provided a lower and an
2 upper guide pin for guiding the information discs into the holder compartments of the stacking
3 unit, which guide pins are engageable into the center holes of the information discs from above
4 and from below, respectively.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 1 in which the overall depth of the apparatus is less than or equal
2 to approximately 1.5 times the information disc diameter.

1 20. A changer apparatus for information discs, comprising:
2 a stacking unit for stacking at least two information discs in different respective stacking
3 positions;
4 a read/write unit for reading information stored on the information discs and/or writing
5 information on the information discs in a play position;
6 an eject position at which an information disc can be inserted and removed from the
7 apparatus; and

8 transport means for transporting the information discs from the eject position into a
9 loading position along a curve-shaped loading path, the loading position being a position for
10 loading discs from the loading path of the transport means into the stacking positions of the
11 stacking unit;
12 and in which the discs can be immediately transported from the eject position to the play
13 position without going through the loading position.